
Section 1 - Reading Comprehension

Directions for Questions 1 - 15:

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

India faces multiple problems of under-nutrition and obesity co-existing with deficiencies of micro-nutrients such as iron, zinc, calcium, and several vitamins. This triple burden of malnutrition must be identified, understood, and addressed. It is much more important especially in the case of children and adolescents as it is during these phases of life that we see rapid growth of the body and development of food habits. Childhood and adolescence are two conjoined periods of continuous growth and development - a seamless duration. For instance, between two and 10 years of age, children tend to grow at an average of 6-7cm in height and 1.5 kg to 3 kg in weight every year. But, specifically, when the growth spurt happens at about 10-12 years in girls and two years later in boys during adolescence, their nutritional needs vastly increase. In the case of girls, their nutritional status impacts not only their health but that of generations to come. Malnutrition in any form can put children and adolescents at risk of compromised immune function, thus making them vulnerable to infections.

To understand and foster their immunity, one also needs to understand disruptive social environment factors that affect diet quality. In urban as well as among middle class and affluent communities, restricted movement, constrained socialisation and even dwindling physical contact have become the new normal. COVID-19 isolation and fatigue have led to generalised stress, adding to the immunity challenge for children. These challenges coupled with a lack of diet diversity leading to imbalanced micro-nutrient intake or consumption of high carbohydrate and high sugar foods, endanger the child's health by compromising their immunity and making them vulnerable to infections. Hence, the way we approach nutrition needs to change.

(Excerpts from Gavaravarapu, S., Hemalatha, R. *Getting nutrition back on the school high table. The Hindu*. November 1, 2021)

1) According to this passage, which of the following options constitute 'malnutrition'?

- A) Restricted movement and dwindling physical contact
 - B) Obesity, under-nutrition and deficiency of micronutrients
 - C) High sugar food, iron deficiency and packaged food items
 - D) High fat diets, high carbohydrate food and obesity
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2) Which of the following options summarises the given passage?

- A) A vast majority of children are malnourished because of high carbohydrate intake.
 - B) Our approach to nutrition depends upon availability of resources and time.
 - C) Nutritional needs of children vary with age, stage of development they are at and their social environment.
 - D) Exercise and nutrition both are crucial for developing healthy citizens.
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3) Read the following excerpt from the given passage: COVID-19 isolation and fatigue have led to generalised stress, adding to the immunity challenge for children. These challenges coupled with a lack of diet diversity leading to imbalanced micro-nutrient intake or consumption of high carbohydrate and high sugar foods, endanger the child's health by compromising their immunity and making them vulnerable to infections. Hence, the way we approach nutrition needs to change.

Based on this excerpt, which of the following statements is true?

Statement A: COVID 19 stress is the main cause for loss of immunity among children.

Statement B: Lack of diet diversity is a reason for children becoming more vulnerable to infections.

- A) Both the statements are true
- B) Statement A is true
- C) Statement B is true
- D) None of the statements is true

4) Complete the following sentence by selecting one of the options given below:

The passage implies that

- A) we need to broaden our understanding of nutrition
 - B) multi-vitamins must be provided for children from urban and affluent families
 - C) COVID 19 has led to the malnutrition among children
 - D) nutritional needs of all the children across stages are similar
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5) Consider the following two statements:

Statement A: Authors of this article are dissatisfied with the approach to malnutrition.

Statement B: The triple burden of malnutrition coupled with lack of social interaction is unaddressed.

Select the appropriate option from the ones given below:

- A) Statement B is the reason for statement A
 - B) Statement A is the reason for statement B
 - C) Statement B is the solution for statement A
 - D) The two statements are unrelated
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Naukri is permanent and regular employment that generally provides a monthly salary and a considerable degree of legally sanctioned job security. Pakki naukri – the 'complete' or 'perfect' version of it – is sarkari naukri (government employment). In terms of pay and prestige, most 'perfect' of all is a central government job (which is what railway workers have), as opposed to one with the state government. By comparison with either, even a relatively secure and well-remunerated regular job with a private sector firm is kacchi ('incomplete' or 'imperfect') naukri. Old timers reflect on how the relative valuation encapsulated in the time honoured proverb, uttam kheti, madhyam vyavsay, nich naukri ('highest agriculture, business middling, lowest naukri') is now reversed.

Long gone are the days when 'service' was tainted by association with the servility of the 'servant' (naukar). Naukri confers ijjat ('honour' or 'respect'), whereas – for women especially – other kinds of employment outside the home detract from it. It raises the status of the household, enormously enhances its creditworthiness, and is a major asset when it comes to arranging a marriage or resisting the unreasonable demands of a boss. It was because she was the daughter of a naukri-vala, Budhvantin explained, that her mother-in-law treated her with such consideration when, after their elopement, Bukhau eventually brought her back to his impoverished village near Bhilai. Though for the most part unrealistically, in slum bastis ('neighbourhoods') on the periphery of the town young boys still learning their

letters imagine themselves with a government job and their teenage sisters dream of a husband who has one.

Young men with the requisite educational qualifications, and the means to do so, spend years in 'time pass' until their hopes of appointment are finally extinguished on reaching the age limit. To promote their prospects, parents often mortgage or sell fields to pay private school fees, or bribes to a middle-man (dalal) who claims to be able to ensure selection. The supply of sarkari naukri is an index of vikas (of 'progress' or 'development'), which is why many of my informants were hopeful when Chhattisgarh became a separate state that the government bureaucracy would expand.

[Excerpts from Parry, J., & Ajay, T. G. (2020). *Classes of Labour: Work and life in a central Indian steel town*. Routledge].

6) Why were informants hopeful when Chhattisgarh became a separate state?

- A) Reduced influence of middlemen in the region
 - B) Extension of age limit in joining government employment
 - C) More government schemes for local people
 - D) Greater opportunities for public sector employment
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7) The author says that the proverb used by old timers about different types of work is now reversed. Which option would best capture this reversal?

- A) Highest agriculture, lowest business, middling naukri
 - B) Highest naukri, middling business, lowest agriculture
 - C) Highest business, middling naukri, lowest agriculture
 - D) Highest naukri, middling agriculture, lowest business
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8) Consider the following two statements:

Statement A: Government employment or a public sector job is as good as a well paying private sector job.

Statement B: Salaried jobs are more valued within the household.

Which of the following options is correct?

- A) Both statements A and B are true.
- B) Statement A is False but Statement B is true.
- C) Statement A is true but statement B is false
- D) Both the statements A and B are false

9) What, according to the passage, is “unrealistic” about young boys imagining a government sector job?

- A) Most adults from such neighbourhoods do not work in the service sector
 - B) People from these neighbourhoods cannot acquire skills for such jobs
 - C) People from these neighbourhoods don't have the money to bribe middlemen
 - D) The competitive exams for government jobs are too difficult
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10) What does the phrase 'spending years in time-pass' imply in this paragraph?

- A) Absence of a job and no real income
 - B) Absence of a job and waiting till the right age for employment is reached
 - C) Absence of a job and inability to pay off middle-men to ensure selection
 - D) Absence of a job and repeated attempts at entrance exams and job applications
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At first glance, the term youth is used simply to define individuals who fall within a stipulated age category. For instance, the United Nations defines youth as individuals aged between 15 and 24, while the African Union and East African Community define youth as individuals between the age of 15 and 35. However, further exploration reveals that age categories are insufficient in determining youthhood. Definitions of youth vary in terms of age, space, time, location, gender, and socio-economic and political dynamics. As such, there are multiple categorizations of youth whose experiences differ considerably.

Similarly, the meaning and definition of adulthood can shift easily from situation to situation. For example, in the context of conflict, age and gender roles are disrupted and disregarded as youth and women may commit acts of violence to ensure survival. Furthermore, in the case of the loss of parents, young people (of either gender) may be forced into the position of head of household, taking on the role of 'protector' and 'provider'. In this way, categories of differentiation in age can vanish completely.

The word 'youth' cannot be removed from politics and power. In African society, decision making and the public space is reserved for (male) adults and elites who seek to capture and maintain power. Politics is also an adult terrain where the subordination of the youth is justified in the name of culture and continuity. Youth and age are socially constructed and easily manipulated. The capabilities of the youth are often exploited to sustain the power of those in authority while young people themselves feel increasingly disenfranchised, unable to access any tangible gains from

the economy and society. Yet, their agency should not be underestimated, as their ability to organize their power to action can be an effective instrument for change as seen in the *Arab Spring*, #EndSars Movement in Nigeria, #Zimbabweanlivesmatter, and other social movements around the continent.

[Excerpts from LoWilla, M. (n.d.) Young Women Building Peace at the Intersection of Women, Peace and Security and Youth, Peace and Security, Women's International Peace Centre

Blog, <https://wipc.org/young-women-building-peace-at-the-intersection-of-women-peace-and-security-and-youth-peace-and-security/> (accessed on 12th November 2021)]

11) What are the factors considered for defining youth in different societies?

- A) Age
 - B) Political power
 - C) Gender
 - D) All of the above
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12) Which of the following statements captures the main argument of the passage?

- A) Categories of differentiation in age are changeable as the example of youth and adulthood show
 - B) Culture is a contributor to defining youth
 - C) Elites and male decision-makers manipulate the definitions of youth
 - D) Conflicts and gender roles can force youth to take the role of an adult
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13) Based on the above passage, indicate whether the two statements given below are true or false.

- A. Capabilities of youth are supported by elites and decision makers.
- B. Societal and economic gains are not always accessible to the youth.

- A) Statement A is false but statement B is true
- B) Both the statements are true
- C) Both the statements are false
- D) Statement A is true but statement B is false

14) Why does the author say that youth and age are socially constructed?

- A) Young people are easily manipulated by people in power
 - B) Disenfranchised young people create social movements
 - C) The categorisation of youth changes across time and social context.
 - D) Lack of power creates different categories within the youth
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15) Pick out the statement that is INCORRECT

- A) Youth are often instruments for elite control.
- B) Youth are agents of social change.
- C) Youth are agents without power.
- D) Youth are powerful agents in social movements.

Section 2 - General and Quantitative Reasoning Ability

16) Child labour increases due to increase in school dropout rates. School dropout rates are high due to prolonged closure of schools.

Which of the following conclusions will hold true in the light of the above two sentences?

- A) Prolonged closure of schools leads to increase in child labour.
 - B) If schools are not closed for prolonged time, the school dropout rate decreases.
 - C) School dropout rate increases due to increase in child labour.
 - D) School dropout rates increase due to prolonged closure of school and due to child labour.
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17) A University offers programmes in Development, Education and Public Policy. All public policy graduates understand development. All education graduates understand development. Some development graduates understand public policy.

Which of the following options is the best conclusion that can be drawn from the above statements?

- A) Some public policy graduates understand education.
 - B) All public policy graduates understand development and education.
 - C) All development graduates understand public policy.
 - D) Some education graduates understand development.
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18) A train from Delhi will pass through **Kanpur central station** and stop for a while at **Prayagraj station** before ending the trip at Patna.

Which of the following statements is a correct inference from the above statement?

- i. No train to Patna from Delhi stops at Prayagraj.
- ii. All trains ending the trip at Patna will stop at Kanpur central

- A) Only (i) is true
- B) Only (ii) is true
- C) Neither (i) nor (ii) are true
- D) Both (i) and (ii) are true

19) Climate activists argue that developing countries are not doing enough to reduce their carbon footprint. Developing countries insist on being treated differently from developed countries with respect to commitments on reducing carbon footprints.

In this argument, the statement “Developing countries insist on being...” is a/an

- A) conclusion
 - B) explanation
 - C) evidence to the conclusion
 - D) illustration
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20) The Reserve Bank of India may increase the repo rates and Cash reserve ratio rate when the inflation rate is high. The revision happens every quarter. It is expected that the repo rate will be increased next quarter.

Which of the following can be inferred from the above statements?

- A) Inflation rate is high in the current quarter.
 - B) High inflation rate reduces cash reserve ratio rate.
 - C) As the repo rate decreases, the cash reserve ratio will increase.
 - D) Repo rate, Cash reserve ratio are not connected to inflation.
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Based on the paragraph below, answer the following questions.

In India the countrywide average of administering at least one dose of a Covid-19 vaccine to the total population is 53%. Data shows that of the 700 districts in India, 329 (47%) are yet to give even one vaccine dose to more than half their total population. Among large states, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are the two worst performers in terms of administering at least one dose of a Covid-19 vaccine to their total population. More than 90% of the districts in both states are lagging the countrywide average. To be sure, the percentages for Maharashtra and Jharkhand, at 71% and 88%, respectively, are also poor. There are large disparities between states in terms of administering at least one dose of a Covid-19 vaccine to their total population. At one end of the scale are states like Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Goa, which had given one dose to around 75% of their total population by late-October. At the other end are Nagaland (32%), Meghalaya (33%) and Jharkhand (39%).

Adapted from: *1 Billion Vaccine Doses, But Women, Tribals Lag* - By [Lesley A. Esteves, Nushaiba Iqbal](https://www.indiaspend.com/covid-19/1-billion-vaccine-doses-but-women-tribals-lag-785262) | 3 Nov, 2021 (<https://www.indiaspend.com/covid-19/1-billion-vaccine-doses-but-women-tribals-lag-785262>)

21) Which of the following states has the highest coverage of its population with at least one dose of vaccine?

- A) Maharashtra
 - B) Uttar Pradesh
 - C) Nagaland
 - D) Sikkim
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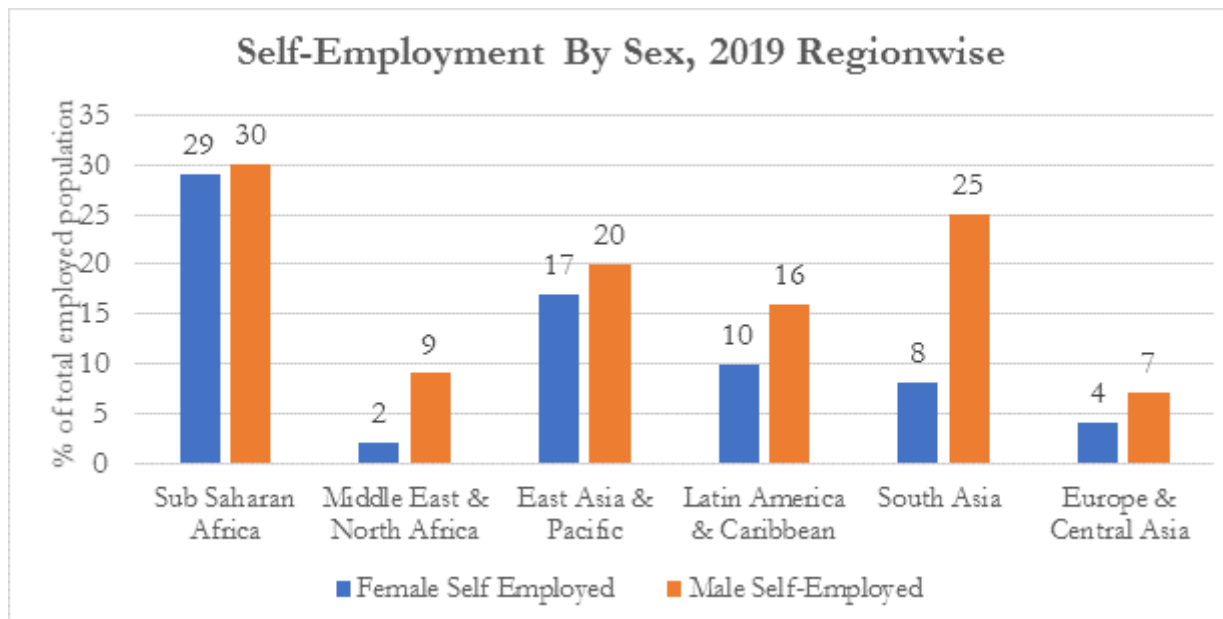
22) Which of the following statements is true?

- A) 88% of Jharkhand districts have less than 53% vaccinated population.
 - B) More than 90% of the population in Bihar are not vaccinated.
 - C) All the North Eastern States are performing poorly in terms of percentage of vaccinated population.
 - D) Maharashtra has higher vaccination rates than the countrywide average.
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23) How many districts have given at least one vaccine to more than half of their population?

- A) 329
 - B) 371
 - C) 350
 - D) 497
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The chart shows the proportion of the employed population classified as self employed. The chart depicts the proportion of self employed male and female population in regions across the World
Graph 1.



24) Which regions have less than five percent female self-employed population?

- A) (South Asia) and (Sub Saharan Africa)
 - B) (East Asia & Pacific) and (Latin America & Caribbean)
 - C) (Europe & Central Asia) and (Middle East & North Africa)
 - D) (Sub saharan Africa) and (East Asia & Pacific)
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25) Which of the following correctly represents the 'gender gap in self-employability' ratio between (Europe & Central Asia) and (Latin America & Caribbean)?

- A) 2:1
 - B) 1:2
 - C) 5:8
 - D) 6:9
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26) Rank the regions in the increasing order of self-employment rate for females

1. Sub Saharan Africa
2. South Asia
3. East Asia and Pacific
4. Latin America and Caribbean
5. Europe and Central Asia
6. Middle East and North Africa

- A) 6, 5, 2, 4
- B) 6, 5, 2, 3
- C) 5, 2, 4, 3
- D) 5, 2, 4, 1

Table 1: The following table presents information on the number of elected representatives (including women elected representatives) to local bodies including gram panchayats, intermediate, and district panchayats for various years from 2001 to 2008 (in thousands). Answer the following questions from the table below.

Year	Gram Panchayats		Intermediate Panchayats		District Panchayats	
	Total	Women	Total	Women	Total	Women
2001	2739	685	140	15	14	3
2002	1630	548	72	23	11	4
2004	2065	838	109	47	12	5
2006	2656	975	156	58	16	6
2007	2645	975	156	58	16	6
2008	2645	974	156	58	16	6

Data Source: Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

27) In which year is the number of men among elected representatives to the gram panchayat the lowest?

- A) 2001
- B) 2002
- C) 2006
- D) 2008

28) The average number of elected women representatives in gram panchayats across all given years is:

- A) 43.2
- B) 131.5
- C) 832.5
- D) 2396.7

29) In which year is the proportion of elected women representatives to the gram panchayats the highest?

- A) 2001
- B) 2002
- C) 2004
- D) 2006

30) In which year is the total number of elected representatives to all local bodies the highest?

- A) 2008
- B) 2007
- C) 2006
- D) 2001

Section 3 - Social Awareness

31) The National Education Policy-2020 states that 'the education system must aim to benefit India's children so that no child loses any opportunity to learn and excel because of circumstances of birth or background.' Which of the following best describes the policy goal behind this statement?

- A) Inclusive Education
 - B) Merit-based Education
 - C) Need-based Education
 - D) Contextual Education
-

32) A batch of petitions have been filed before the Supreme Court of India seeking a probe into the alleged use of Pegasus software by the Government for surveillance. Which of the following fundamental rights is/are alleged to have been violated in the use of this software?

- (i) Right to Privacy
- (ii) Right to Free Speech
- (iii) Right to Practice any Trade or Business

- A) Only (i)
 - B) Both (i) and (ii)
 - C) Both (i) and (iii)
 - D) (i), (ii) and (iii)
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33) According to the Global Hunger Index 2021, which of the following countries are doing worse than India?

- A) Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka
 - B) Sri Lanka, Madagascar, Zambia
 - C) Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Chad
 - D) Madagascar, Yemen, Chad
-

34) Maria Ressa and Dmitry Muratov received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2021 for their contribution to:

- A) protection of freedom of expression
- B) raising awareness about nuclear weapons
- C) raising awareness about racial prejudice
- D) arresting climate change

35) *But this much is certain that if the parties place creed above country, our independence will be put in jeopardy a second time and probably be lost forever. This eventuality we must all resolutely guard against. We must be determined to defend our independence with the last drop of our blood.* These lines are excerpts from;

- A) B.R. Ambedkar's speech in the Constituent Assembly
 - B) Jawaharlal Nehru's speech on the eve of Indian Independence
 - C) C. Rajagopalachari's speech in the Constituent Assembly
 - D) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's speech after the integration of Princely States into the Indian Union
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36) The National Education Policy-2020 proposes a system of learning based on hands-on work, storytelling, arts, theatre, music and sport in higher education. Which of the following best describes this mode of learning?

- A) Experiential learning
 - B) Rote learning
 - C) Emotional Learning
 - D) Aesthetic learning
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37) Which of the following ideas does **NOT** figure in the Preamble of the Indian Constitution?

- A) Welfare
- B) Religious Freedom
- C) Vertical division of sovereign power
- D) Individual Freedom

38) Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) introduced in Indian elections in 2014 aims to:

- (i) enable voters to verify whether the vote has been cast as intended
- (ii) enable voters to verify whether the vote has been counted as it was cast

- A) Only (i)
 - B) Only (ii)
 - C) Both (i) and (ii)
 - D) Neither (i) nor (ii)
-

39) Which of the following states has adopted total organic farming?

- A) Sikkim
 - B) Meghalaya
 - C) Assam
 - D) Mizoram
-

40) Which of the following philanthropists was declared as the philanthropist of the century by the Hurun Research and EdelGive Foundation's list of the top 50 global philanthropists?

- A) Azim Premji
- B) Jamsetji Tata
- C) Mukesh Ambani
- D) Bill Gates

41) **Instructions:**

A. You can choose to respond to any **one of the three** questions below.

B. In descriptive response we consider your overall ability to respond to a given issue of importance in the domains of education, development and public policy.

C. Your response will be assessed for the following aspects;

- (a) your ability to take an informed position
- (b) application of critical thinking
- (c) inclusion of diverse perspectives
- (d) coherent writing

D. Each answer should be not more than 400 words in length. Avoid writing in bullet point forms.

1. Do you think India can provide quality education for all by promoting low-cost private schools? Comment.

2. Extending reservation in government jobs on the basis of economic backwardness is against the spirit of the Constitution. Do you agree? Justify your answer.

3. In what ways do you think the proliferation of misinformation on social media is threatening public order and social harmony in India? What measures do you suggest to control this menace?